

Introductory Pāḷi Course

by

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Lesson 2

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Revision

Short & Long Vowel

Short (*rassa*)

Short vowels: **a, i, u**

e & o

- before double consonants
- before conjunct consonants

One finger snap duration

One eye-blink duration

A long syllable is exactly equal to two short syllables in duration

Long (*dīgha*)

Long vowels: **ā, ī, ū, e*, o***

e & o

long in all other cases:

- before single consonant
- at end of word

Two finger snaps duration

Two eye-blinks duration

Pronouncing All 41 Letters

	Place of articulation 发音部位 (<i>ṭhāna</i>)	Letters
Vowels		a, ā, i, ī, u, ū, e, o
Consonants	Gutturals 喉音 (<i>kaṇṭhaja</i>)	k, kh, g, gh, ṅ
	Palatals 口盖音 (<i>tāluja</i>)	c, ch, j, jh, ñ
	Cerebrals 反舌音 (<i>muddhaja</i>)	ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, ḍh, ṇ
	Dentals 齿音 (<i>dantaja</i>)	t, th, d, dh, n
	Labials 唇音 (<i>oṭṭhaja</i>)	p, ph, b, bh, m,
	Miscellaneous 杂项	y, r, l, v, s, h, ḷ, ṃ

Some Pronunciation Rules

Double or Conjunct Consonants

For double or conjunct consonants in the middle of a word:

- both consonants must be pronounced
- the **first consonant** is pronounced together with the **preceding syllable**, while the **second consonant** is pronounced together with the **subsequent syllable**

e.g. **Buddham**, **Dhammam**, **Saṅgham**

Special Note: a

Pronunciation of “a”

- At Beginning Syllable of word : **mouth open**
- In the Middle or End Syllable : **mouth close**

namo
open

tassa
open|close
“ser”

bhagavato
open|close|close
“ger” “ver”

Special Note: a

Special Cases:

1. **a** is n front of **m** : mouth open

→ *Buddham*
open

2. In compound words, like *pavagga*

- *pavagga* = *pa* + *vagga*

→ *Pavagga*
open|open|close

- *Jetavane* = *Jet* + *vane*

→ *Jetavane*
close|open

“a” here is in
the first syllable
of 2nd word

Special Note: a

Special Cases:

3. Generally, in front of **double** or **conjunct** consonant: **mouth open**

→ *dīpañkara*

→ *kataññutā*

→ *kadamavaṇṇassa*

4. For single-syllable word: **close mouth**

→ *ca, na*

Colour Guide

a – open mouth

a – close mouth

a – open mouth following special rule
(compound words), like Jetavane,
sikkhāpadaṃ

a – open mouth not following any rule,
like veramaṇī, aññatarā

Mahāmaṅgalasuttaṃ

Bahū devā maṇussā ca,
maṅgalāni acintayum,
ākaṅkhamānā sotthānaṃ,
brūhi maṅgalamuttamaṃ.

Asevanā ca bālānaṃ,
paṇḍitānañca sevanā,
pūjā ca pūjanīyānaṃ,
etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ.

Parts of Speech 词类

Parts of Speech 词类(*padajati*)

4 Parts of Speech 四种词类 (*padajati*)

Noun 名词 (*nāma*)

- incl. Pronouns and Adjectives
- 包括代名词，形容词

Verb 动词 (*ākhyāta*)

Prefix 字首/接头词 (*upasagga*)

Indeclinable Particle 不变化词(*nipāta*)

- incl. Conjunctions, Prepositions & Adverbs
- 包括连接词，介系词，副词

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All declined words
such as

- Nouns 名词
- Pronouns 代名词
- Adjectives 形容词
- Declinable Participles
屈折分词

Parts of Speech 词类(*padajati*)

Verb 动词 (*ākhyāta*)

All verbs.
Verbs are formed from verbal roots by adding conjugational terminations.

7 Conjugations

6 Tenses

3 Moods

Parts of Speech 词类(*padajati*)

Prefix 字首/接头词
(*upasagga*)



All Prefixes

Parts of Speech 词类(*padajati*)

Indeclinable Particle 不变化词(*nipāta*)

- incl. Conjunctions, Prepositions & Adverbs
- 包括连接词，介系词，副词

- All prepositions
介系词
- Conjunctions
连接词
- Indeclinable Adverbs
不变化副词
- Interjections 感叹词

Noun 名词 (nāma)

Genders of Nouns

3 Genders of Nouns

名词的性别分类

Masculine
阳性
(*Pulliṅga*)

Feminine
阴性
(*Itthiliṅga*)

Neuter
中性
(*Napuṃsakaliṅga*)

Gender: Grammatical Notes

- Nouns which denote **males** are **masculine**;
- Nouns which denote **females** are **feminine**
- But nouns which denote **inanimate things & qualities** are **not always neuter**
 - *Rukkha* (tree), *canda* (moon) : masculine
 - *Nadī* (river), *latā* (vine), *paññā* (wisdom) : feminine
 - *Dhana* (wealth), *citta* (mind) : neuter

Gender: Grammatical Notes

- Two words denoting the same thing may be in diff genders:
 - Stone : *pāsāṇa* (masculine) or *silā* (feminine)
- Likewise, one word, without changing its form, may possess two or more genders:
 - **Geha** (house) : masculine & neuter
 - **Kucchī** (belly) : masculine & feminine

Nouns – Quantity / Numbers

Division of Quantity / Numbers

数量

Singular

单数

(*Ekavacana*)

Plural

复数

(*Bahuvacana*)

Nouns: 8 Groups/9 Types of Cases

	<i>Vibhatti</i>	Case	e.g.
1	<i>Paṭhamā</i>	Nominative 主格	Subject
2	<i>Dutiyā</i>	Accusative 宾格/对格/受格	Object
3	(a) <i>Tatīyā</i>	Ablative of agent (without action)	“by”
	(b) <i>Karaṇa</i>	Ablative of instrument (with action) 工具格	“with” “through”
4	<i>Catutthī</i>	Dative (receiver) 与格/为格	“to”, “for”
5	<i>Pañcamī</i>	Ablative of separation (already moved) 托格/从格/夺格	“from”
6	<i>Chaṭṭhī</i>	Possessive/Genitive (belonging to) 属格	“of”
7	<i>Sattamī</i>	Locative 位置格/处格	“in”, “on”, “at”
8	<i>Ālapana</i>	Vocative (being addressed) 呼格	“O man”, “dear mother”

Declension of Nouns

名词的曲用/语尾变化

Each noun is
declined according
to its

Termination

Case

Gender

Number

Grouping of Nouns According to Termination

Group	Ending with	example
<i>akārānta</i>	a	<i>nara</i> (man)
<i>ikārānta</i>	i	<i>aggi</i> (fire)
<i>īkārānta</i>	ī	<i>pakkhī</i> (bird)
<i>ukārānta</i>	u	<i>bhikkhu</i>
<i>ūkārānta</i>	ū	<i>sabbaññū</i> (omniscience)
<i>okārānta</i>	o	<i>go</i> (bull)

1. Declension of Masculine, Akārānta Nouns 阳性名词的曲用

1.1 Nominative Case

主格

Declension of Nominative Masculine Akārānta Nouns (end with “a”) 主格阳性名词的曲用

Stem	Singular 单数	Plural 复数
<i>nara</i> (man)	<i>nara</i> + o = <i>naro</i> (the man)	<i>nara</i> + ā = <i>narā</i> (the men)
<i>Buddha</i> (Buddha)	<i>Buddha</i> + o = <i>Buddho</i> (the Buddha)	<i>Buddha</i> + ā = <i>Buddhā</i> (the Buddhas)
<i>putta</i> (son)	<i>putta</i> + o = <i>putto</i> (the son)	<i>putta</i> + ā = <i>puttā</i> (the sons)
<i>kassaka</i> (farmer)	<i>kassaka</i> + o = <i>kassako</i> (the farmer)	<i>kassaka</i> + ā = <i>kassakā</i> (the farmers)

Declension of Nominative Masculine Akārānta Nouns (end with “a”) 主格阳性名词的曲用

Stem	Singular	Plural
<i>manussa</i> (human being)	<i>manussa</i> + o = <i>manusso</i> (the human being)	<i>manussa</i> + ā = <i>manussā</i> (the human beings)
<i>mātula</i> (uncle)	<i>mātula</i> + o = <i>mātulo</i> (the uncle)	<i>mātula</i> + ā = <i>mātulā</i> (the uncles)
<i>kumāra</i> (boy)	<i>kumāra</i> + o = <i>kumāro</i> (the boy)	<i>kumāra</i> + ā = <i>kumārā</i> (the boys)
<i>mitta</i> (friend)	<i>mitta</i> + o = <i>mitto</i> (the friend)	<i>mitta</i> + ā = <i>mittā</i> (the friends)

Vocabulary – Nominative Nouns

<i>Pāḷi Stem</i>	English	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>nara</i>	man	<i>naro</i>	<i>narā</i>
<i>Buddha</i>	Buddha	<i>Buddho</i>	<i>Buddhā</i>
<i>putta</i>	son	<i>putto</i>	<i>puttā</i>
<i>kassaka</i>	farmer	<i>kassako</i>	<i>kassakā</i>
<i>manussa</i>	human being	<i>manusso</i>	<i>manussā</i>
<i>mātula</i>	uncle	<i>mātulo</i>	<i>mātulā</i>
<i>kumāra</i>	boy	<i>kumāro</i>	<i>kumārā</i>
<i>mitta</i>	friend	<i>mitto</i>	<i>mittā</i>